

CLAIMS FOR THE CONTRACTING STATES: BE, FR, GB

1. A smoking article having a filter (1) at the mouth end of a tobacco rod (17), the filter being in the form of a rod surrounded by a tipping material (21) suitable for contact with the lips, which overlaps a wrapper (19) surrounding the tobacco rod and having at its periphery channels (11,12) for secondary air covered by the tipping material, characterised in that the filter rod is peripherally impermeable to air, an intermediate sheet (4) of substantially impermeable material is interposed between the tipping material and the filter rod but does not extend between the tipping material and the tobacco rod, and the intermediate sheet is provided with slits (6 to 10) extending from the mouth end (5), but occupying only part of the area of the intermediate sheet, thereby forming the said channels which communicate with perforations (26) in the tipping material.
2. An article according to claim 1, characterised in that the slits (6 to 10) have lateral edges cut perpendicular to the plane of the intermediate sheet.
3. An article according to claim 1 or 2, characterised in that the intermediate sheet (4) has a thickness of from 0.1 to 0.6 mm.
4. An article according to any of the preceding claims, characterised in that the intermediate sheet (4) extends from the mouth end (5) of the filter rod (1) to the end (14) remote from the mouth, with the exception of a tolerance gap (15).
5. An article according to any of the preceding claims, characterised in that the tipping material (21) surrounds the intermediate sheet (4) with an overlap (22), but the intermediate sheet surrounds the filter rod (1) with a butt joint (24).

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6. An article according to claim 4 or 5, characterised in that the filter rod (1), together with the intermediate sheet (4) has the same total cross-section (20) as the tobacco rod (17).

5 7. An article according to any of the preceding claims, characterised in that the slits (6 to 10) are uniformly distributed round the periphery of the filter rod (1), extend in the longitudinal direction of the filter rod, and occupy from 25 to 60% of the filter rod periphery at the mouth end and from 40 to 80%
10 of the total length of the filter rod.

8. Apparatus for producing an article according to claim 1, including means ⁽³⁰⁾ for supplying a strip of double-width tipping paper, ⁽³¹⁾ means ⁽⁵⁰⁾ for applying adhesive to the ^{said portion} tipping paper, means ⁽³³⁾ for cutting the tipping paper into portions, and means for
15 wrapping the portions individually round double-length filter rods and the adjacent regions of two contiguous tobacco rods and for dividing the resulting double-length cigarettes into single cigarettes, characterised by means (36, 37) for supplying and
20 advancing a strip of double-width intermediate sheet material (35), stamping or punching means (38) arranged to make slits (6 to 10) in the double-width intermediate sheet, a first adhesive applicator (40) to apply adhesive to the side of the intermediate sheet to be stuck to the tipping paper (31), and combining means
25 (45) to assemble the intermediate sheet material with the tipping paper (31), with their longitudinal axes (34) coincident, to form a combined strip (47) having channels in the required portion on its face destined to contact the filter rods.

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9. Apparatus according to claim 8, characterised
that intermediate sheet cutting means (43) are disposed
~~next~~^{adjacently} before the combining means (45) to cut the inter-
mediate sheet strip (35) into intermediate sheet portio
5 (44), that the combining means (45) is adapted to apply
the intermediate sheet portions at spaced intervals to
the tipping paper strip (31), and that the tipping
paper cutting means (33) is synchronised to cut along
one edge of each intermediate sheet portion and leave
10 an overlapping edge of the tipping paper strip (31) at
the opposite edge of the resulting cut portion (51) of
the combined strip (47).

10. Apparatus according to claim 8 or 9,
15 characterised in that the first adhesive applicator (40)
and/or the second adhesive applicator (50) has an
applicator roller (55,56) which peripherally rolls on
the surface of the double-width intermediate sheet strip
(35) to be coated with adhesive, and is rotated synchron-
20 ously with the movement of the intermediate sheet strip
in such a way that adhesive-free zones (57) on the roller
contact the slits (6 to 10) and prevent the filling
thereof with adhesive.

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